

Message Text

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51

ACTION AGR-20

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR IOANES

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR: GW

SUBJ: PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL POLICY DISCUSSIONS

1. THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE WAS RECENTLY INFORMED BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS, PIRKMAYR AND HOFFMAN, OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN MINISTRY PLANS TO IMPLEMENT AGRICULTURAL POLICY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MINAG AND U. S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. GERMAN INTEREST IN SUCH EXCHANGES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONVEYED TO THE ATTACHE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MARTINSTETTER AND MORE RECENTLY BY UNDER SECRETARY ROHR. THE IDEA ALSO WAS DISCUSSED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES MARTINSTETTER AND BAATH DURING THE VISIT OF MINIST ERTL AND PARTY TO WASHINGTON IN LATE 1971.

2. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY PLANS, A GROUP OF FOUR OR FIVE MINISTRY OFFICIALS LED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MARKET POLICY, MR. WITTIG, PROPOSES TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. THEY WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS (A) AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND THE GATT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND (B) POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE EEC GRAIN PRICE POLICY AND THEIR FARM MANAGMENT AND TRADE POLICY EFFECTS AND POSSIBILITIES.

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3. MINISTRY THINKING IS THAT THE GROUP SHOULD MEET IN WASHINGTON WITH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF TREASURY, STATE, AND AGRICULTURE AND WHITE HOUSE OFFICIES, SUCH AS THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVES AND THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS.

4. IN ADDITION TO WITTIG, TENTATIVELY PLANNED PARTICIPANTS AT THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL ARE BURKHARD, EEC GROUP; SCHOLZ, PLANNING, COORDINATION AND METHODS; DR. EISENKRAEMER, RURAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL POLICY; AND DR. SPECKS, FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: UNTIL FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD, THE ABOVE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE DISCUSSION WITH FRG AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE IN BAMMEL IN WASHINGTON

TO EVIDENCE INTEREST IN THE VISIT AND TO OFFER ASSISTANCE IN DRAWING UP PLANS AND MAKING ARRANGEMENTS; ALSO TO STATE U. S. ATTITUDES REGARDING A POSSIBLE RETURN EXCHANGE BY AN AMERICAN GROUP.

ACCORDING

TO PIRKMAYR, THERE ARE GROWING DOUBTS THAT THE PRESENT GRAIN PRICE POLICY IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF GERMANY AND THE EEC. MINISTRY AND FARM ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS ARE LARGELY AGREED THAT THE POLICY MUST BE REAPPRAISED. IN VIEW OF THIS INCREASINGLY FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR CHANGE, WHICH PIRKMAYR CONTENDS IS BETTER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE,

THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER

AGENCIES ENCOURAGE AND RESPOND TO THE GERMAN INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS POLICY ISSUES ON A TWO- WAY EXCHANGE BASIS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
HILLENBRAND

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